

This is **Msg # 2** – in our **Alone With God** Series

In **their study** of “**Scripture Engagement**”

TAYLOR UNIVERSITY Refers to a **Research Book** titled
Move: What 1,000 Churches Reveal About Spiritual Growth

& the **KEY CONCLUSION** of that book

After **surveying 1,000 Churches** - was **this** (quoting the book) . . .

“Nothing has a greater impact on spiritual growth than reflection on Scripture . . . If churches could do only one thing to help people at all levels of spiritual maturity grow in their relationship with Christ, their choice is clear. They would inspire, encourage, and equip their people . . . to reflect on Scripture for meaning in their lives.”

That **basically what I said** at the **beginning** of **last week’s** msg

If there were only **ONE THING** we could **do**
to help people grow in their relationship with Christ

it would be what **we** are **talking about** in **THIS series**

THIS - is the **ONE THING** that I’ve **seen** be
100% effective in **Transformational Growth in Christ**

What we **teach people** to do with our **Daily Devotion Journal**
Taylor University calls “**Scripture Engagement**”

& here is **PART** of how they Define “**Scripture Engagement**”

[Scripture Engagement] is a marinating, mulling over, reflecting, dwelling on, pondering of the Scriptures, resulting in a transformative engagement with God.

**There's the KEY right there
*resulting in a transformative engagement with God***

**If you want to Develop – a *Transformative Engagement with God*
We want to help you do that**

**& TODAY – We want to help you do that
By learning what it means – to MEDITATE On God's Word**

Let's Pray

**MARTIN LUTHER said – There are 3 components to flourishing
in the Christian Life – *Prayer, Meditation . . . & Suffering***

**in this Series - We're going to Develop TWO of those THREE
components to a flourishing Christian Life– *Meditation & Prayer***

**MEDITATION is us learning how to LISTEN
to what God is saying - IN His WORD**

**& PRAYER is us Speaking to God – Communing with Him
AS we HEAR from Him - & as we APPLY His Word to our lives**

& AS we Take Action - BASED on God's Word

Overtime - We WILL BE Transformed

by the Renewing of our Mind – as Rom 12:2 says

Romans 12:2 (NLT)

2 Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

***Be Transformed – By Changing the Way you THINK
Then you will learn to know God's will for you,
which is good and pleasing and perfect***

**THAT is what learning to
ENGAGE GOD – In His Word - Will DO for You**

**last week - to OPEN this series we talked about
Making a TIME & a PLACE – To Get Alone With God**

**Today we're going to start talking - about What To DO
During that Time Alone with God**

Because WHAT we DO – During that Time ALONE with God
is Absolutely Critical

If you don't hear Anything ELSE today – PLS HEAR THIS

**EVERY PART – Every STEP – Every SECTION
of what We are discussing in this series**

is Fully - Completely & Exclusively Directed – BY GOD'S WORD

Our Entire TIME ALONE with GOD is
Fully, Completely, & Exclusively - Directed By God's Word

So - Let's start with some EXPLANATIONS - & 1 WARNING

Have you ever thought - Christians are NOT supposed to meditate?
... that Meditation is some kind of Eastern Mystical thing

NO – Meditation is Not just an Eastern Mystical thing
it is a actually a very BIBLICAL Concept

& Meditating On God's Word is NOT the same (*in any way*)
as Eastern Mystic Meditation – In fact it is the Exact OPPOSITE

In Eastern Mystic Meditation the GOAL is detachment
& an empty mind – which we believe is VERY DANGEROUS

In Biblical meditation the GOAL is attachment to God
and attachment to His Word – leading to the Transformation
of our Life - According To & in Alignment With God's Word

In Joshua 1:8 God tells Joshua (ESV)

8 This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth (a reference to meditation), but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.

Psalm 1:1–2 (ESV)

1 Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked .

..
2 but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night.

The HEBREW Word for Meditating involves a Low Murmuring
or a low kind of 'talking to yourself' (repeating God's Word)

In the N.T – Meditation takes on the form of

Setting Your Mind on Christ & Heavenly things (Col 3)

Thinking on Godly things (Phil 4)

Giving complete Attention to God's Word (1Tim 4)

Having the same mind (attitude) as Christ (Phil 2)

Meditating on God's Word *marinating, mulling over, reflecting, dwelling on, pondering of the Scriptures, resulting in a transformative engagement with God.*

It's Done in a Quiet Time with God – Usually Alone

It is Empowered by The Holy Spirit

Its Purpose is to Replace YOUR thinking - with GOD'S thinking

**It's you setting aside your own thoughts & opinions -
& Receiving - Taking In - - God's Word instead**

**& Over time - God's Word Replaces your natural thinking
& you will actually start LIVING your New Life in Christ**

Now - often - learning to do this takes some DISCIPLESHIP

Someone coming alongside you

to help you develop this time with God – *so consider that*

**God's Word is the CORE - the CRUX - the FULCRUM
of our Relationship with The Lord**

2 Timothy 3:16–17 (esv)

16 All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,

17 that the man (& woman) of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

BUT - That Power of the Word of God

to Bring **True Transformation**

Has been **virtually UNTAPPED** in **Most Christian's Lives**

We would like that to CHANGE – in YOUR Life

& **Now** - just **One WARNING** before we **continue**

Meditating On God's Word is **NOT** to be **used**
as a **form** of **Bible STUDY**, or **Bible INTERPRETATION**

You & I do NOT get to come up
with what **WE THINK** the Bible **MEANS**

The **Bible MEANS** what **it MEANS** – & we **get a grasp**
on **what it MEANS** - thru **Sound Bible STUDY Methods**

Meditating on **God's Word** is **to come up** with
How the Bible **APPLIES to Our Lives**

& it's **to come up** with **HOW** we are **Going To RESPOND**
to **what God** is **Impressing** on us - **THRU His Word**

**When we first developed the Daily Devotion Journal
we included some simple Bible Study steps**

to **make sure** you weren't **going down** "**Crazy Interpretation Rd**"
(which is **near here** somewhere I think)

But **the process** became **too intensive** for **Daily Devotion** Use

& so **I'VE been** considering **doing** a **few messages**
on **Simple Bible Study Methods** after **this** series

to kind of **GO along WITH** this **series** – & to **help** in this **area**

But I can give you my **MOST Recommended RESOURCE**
for this **problem** – that **will give you** the
General Context and **Line-of-Thinking** of **ANY vs** in the Bible

[VIDEO] It's called "**WITH THE WORD**" by **Warren Wiersbe**

& **it will give** you **enough** of the **Correct CONTEXT** of any verse
to **make sure** you're not on "**Crazy Interpretation Rd**"

AND - it's a **SMALL BOOK** – **Easy** to **carry** - **Easy** to **use**
"WITH THE WORD" – (**NOT the "Be" series**)

& **one final thing** – You **can Meditate** on **ANY AMOUNT** of Scripture

My **only caution** is to **NOT** take **TOO SMALL** a **piece** of **scripture**
Using just a **word** or **two** – **can get wacky** very **quickly**

**I would say At the very least - a sentence or two,
or one complete Thought - (Ignore vs's look at sentences)**

Or **you can** use a **PARAGRAPH**, or a **SECTION**,
or a **CH**, or an **ENTIRE BOOK**

Just **choose** a **logical selection**
that you **will have** the **time & ability** to **mediate** on

We'll **talk more** about **CHOOSING the SCRIPTURE** as we **cont.**

So – Let's **take a Quick look** at the **Daily Devotion Journal**
to **ORIENT us** to **where** we're **at today** (all should have one)

& **let** me **say One Thing** Here – **About the Act of WRITING**

MOST of us – **THINK BEST** – **Thru the End of a PEN**

When we **have to WRITE down** our thoughts – It **FORCES US**
to **refine general feelings** – to **specific 'writable' thoughts.**

So – You **really SHOULD WRITE** thru **this** process - **if you can**

1st) CHOOSE Your **Scripture** (which we'll talk more about)

2nd) PRAY – **Slow down** – Get **Alone** with God

Honestly – You **CANNOT do** this **while** your **driving** in **traffic**
& **putting on** your **make-up** – (& you **girls can't** do it then **either**)

You **have** to **make a TIME** - & **a PLACE**

IN order To SIT - & Pray that God would Quiet your Mind
As you prepare to meet him

& when you get to THAT place

THEN – You are ready to Begin

To MEDITATE on your Scripture for the Day

To MEDITATE on God's Word is to

mull it over – reflect on it - ponder it - dwell on it (in it)

It's Spending enough time – in God's Word

UNTIL you recognize God SPEAKING to you - personally

- You can think about what it meant to the original hearers
- You can think about what the author was thinking or feeling
- You can Ask the Holy Spirit WHY He has you looking
at THIS particular Scripture - on THIS Day

& as you begin RESPONDING in thought to this Scripture

You will most likely – enter a type of Dialogue with God

& that Dialogue is called – PRAYER – REAL Prayer

You will likely find yourself PRAYING about this scripture

& You'll be PRAYING (interacting with God)

according to this scripture

& - AS you DO – The LORD WILL Speak to you

THRU His Living Word - & BY His Holy Spirit

Most often – BY causing you to FOCUS
on a **Particular Part** of the **Scripture**
or a **Particular Subject** in the **Scripture**

AT This Point - You are **ENGAGING God – IN His Word**

& **You** are **LISTENING** to what **HE**
is **IMPRESSING** on you - **WITHIN** this **scripture**

BUT – You **CANNOT JUMP** to **APPLYING the scripture** yet
That's the **Next Step**

AT this point you're just **Mulling** & **Reflecting**
& **Interacting** with God – In **His Living Word**

& This takes a FEW MINUTES

You have to **SLOW DOWN** enough
Your MIND has to be **FOCUSED** enough
& **You** have to be **ENGAGED** with God enough

& **then** - you **can sense** what the **Holy Spirit**
is **impressing on you** in these **Vs's**

& **you will start** to become – **AMAZED!!**

Now – **everyone** will **do** this **Differently** - but **just** to **give you** an **idea**

let me put 1 of my **RECENT Daily Devotion Journals** on the **Screen**
(**Just** the **MEDITATION** section)

[DDJ VIDEO] - & I **Re-Wrote it** so you could **READ** it

**If you would like to get started using the DDJ right away
you'll find ALL the instructions on the back**

& For the Word-By-Mail family (& those *listening later*)

**We'll have the DDJ as a DOWNLOAD on this message at
WORDBYMAIL.COM**

**& everyone can get it at CALVARYNUEVO.ORG (church site)
Under RESOURCES**

& if you'd like some scriptures to try it out

**I'd suggest signing up for any "Verse of the Day" Subscription
& try plugging that Vs that day - into the DDJ**

Guys – I could read You verses on the
Transforming Power & The Wonder of God's Word - all Day

But let me just say this -
We have GOT to Fall in Love with God's Word

Because it is God's Love Letter to US
& Because our ACTIONS are driven by what we LOVE

**& the Best way to Fall in Love with God's Word
is to Experience ENGAGING GOD Genuinely - IN His Word**

**Once you start Experiencing a Genuine
Two-Way Interaction with God in His Word**

Where you say to the Lord During your Alone Time with Him

*“Lord, I hear you – I HEAR what you are saying
IN your Word – TO ME Personally – Today”*

When you begin Experiencing that - This Process will become
an INVALUABLE Part of your Life

Hebrews 4:12 (NLT)

12 For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires . . .

IF we will ALLOW it to!

ENGAGING SCRIPTURE

with our MIND, our HEART, & our ACTIONS

All Aligned with God’s Word
& ALL in the Power of the Holy Spirit

Is the Most Effective and Transforming way
that you & I can Grow in our Life in Christ

BUT Remember – I’m talking about much more than JUST
Intellectually skimming over the surface of a Bible passage

so we can SAY we have knowledge
without the Word of God ever Truly Transforming our lives

We've got to approach God's Word like what it is

It's our **Daily Bread** for our **life** with **Jesus Christ**
it's **God's Dynamite** to **Explode & Transform** our **Lives**
& it is the **Great Physician's scalpel**

& **maybe THAT'S why so many** of us **SHY away** from it

But We serve a **LOVING** & a **GRACE-FILLED** God

& **He** has **made a way** for us to **come** To Him - in **Confidence**
that we **WILL** receive **MERCY** & **GRACE** from Him

in Psalm 27:8 - David says to the Lord (ESV)

8 You have said, "Seek my face." My heart says to you, "Your face, Lord, do I seek."

We can **KNOW** the Lord – **IN THIS** Exact **SAME WAY**
But it takes **Committed, Devoted** - **TIME with Him**

It STARTS – By **MAKING** that **TIME & PLACE** **With God**

Then **PREPARING** your Heart & Mind thru **PRAYER**

& Then – **MEDITATING on God's Word**

This is a **SUPERNATURAL PROCESS**

This is the Almighty God of Creation saying

I WILL **MEET YOU** - Personally - &

I WILL **TRANSFORM YOUR LIFE** - Radically

Here is the challenge (& the guarantee) that we always give

I Guarantee you - if you will Create

A Daily, Dedicated, - TIME ALONE with God

& if you will Meditate on God's Word - for 30 days

focused on the SAME TOPIC every day (*diff scrips*)

I Guarantee - God WILL Begin to TRANSFORM your Life

ON that topic - WITHIN that 30 days

We have NEVER had someone complete the 30 days

Meditating on the Same TOPIC

Without experiencing the Beginning of a

Noticeable Transformation in their lives – ON that TOPIC

GIVE IT A TRY - You have Everything to GAIN

& Nothing to LOSE . . .

Except those Ungodly things that are destroying your life today

God is WAITING to MEET You - IN His Word

He is waiting to ENGAGE You - To SPEAK to You

& to TRANSFORM You by the Renewing of your Mind

Let's Pray